

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. If any claims are designated "cancelled," please cancel such claims without prejudice.

**Listing of Claims:**

1               1. (currently amended) A hydrogel composition comprising a  
2 hydrophilic polymer dissolved in a composition of silver in water having a total  
3 concentration of silver of between about 5 and 40 parts per million, said silver in the  
4 form of colloidal silver particles having an interior of elemental metallic silver and an  
5 exterior surface of ionic silver, wherein said silver particles are made from a silver  
6 electrode in an electrochemical cell, ~~wherein the entire surface is coated with silver~~  
7 ~~oxide~~, and wherein the composition manifests antimicrobial properties.

1               2. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 35,  
2 wherein at least 75% of the colloidal particles have diameters between 0.005  
3 micrometers and 0.015 micrometers.

1               3. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 2, wherein  
2 at least 90% of the colloidal silver particles have diameters between 0.005 micrometers  
3 and 0.015 micrometers.

1               4. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 3, wherein  
2 at least 95% of the colloidal silver particles have diameters between 0.005 micrometers  
3 and 0.015 micrometers.

5. (canceled)

1                   6. (original) The composition according to claim 1 further  
2 comprising hydrogen peroxide.

1                   7. (original) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the  
2 hydrogen peroxide concentration is between about 1 % wght/v and about 3.0% wght/v.

1                   8. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 composition manifests antimicrobial properties against microbes selected from the  
3 group consisting of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Candida albicans*, *Mycobacteria*  
4 *bovis*, *Mycobacteria tuberculosis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella choleraesius*,  
5 *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Trichomonas vaginalis*, and *Yersinia pestis*.

1                   9. (original) The composition according to claim 8, wherein  
2 *Staphylococcus aureus* is a methicillin-resistant strain.

1                   10. (original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 composition manifests antimicrobial properties against microbes associated with  
3 diseases selected from the group consisting of malaria, fungal infections of the skin,  
4 bacterial infections of the skin, vaginal infections, urinary tract infections, tonsillitis,  
5 pelvic inflammatory disease, pharyngitis, gonorrhea, conjunctivitis, otitis, respiratory  
6 tract infections, and nasal infections.

11. –17. (canceled)

1                   18. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1,  
2 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of gelatin,  
3 carbohydrate polymers and acrylic acid copolymers.

1                   19. (original) The composition according to claim 18, wherein the  
2 carbohydrate polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives,  
3 alginate, carrageenan, and plant gums.

1                   20. (original) The composition according to claim 19, wherein the  
2 plant gums are selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum, locust bean gum,  
3 gum tragant, guar gum, and gum arabic.

1                   21. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1,  
2 further comprising additives to enhance physical characteristics of the hydrogel and/or  
3 enhance wound healing.

1                   22. (original) The composition according to claim 21, wherein the  
2 additives are selected from the group consisting of vitamins, amino acids, growth  
3 factors, maltodextrin, aloe vera and anesthetics.

1                   23. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1,  
2 further comprising additional antimicrobial agents.

1                   24. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 23,  
2 wherein the additional antimicrobial agents are selected from the group consisting of  
3 organic acids, alcohols, organic disinfectants, chlorinated phenolics, chlorhexidine,  
4 biguanides, surfactants, aldehydes, halogen disinfectants and oxygenating  
5 disinfectants.

25. – 34. (canceled)

1                   35. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 1,  
2 wherein a majority of the colloidal silver particles have a maximum diameter less than 0.  
3 015 micrometers and wherein a majority of the colloidal silver particles have a minimum  
4 diameter greater than 0.005 micrometers.